



MINUTES

HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

STANDING COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox, Chair
Rep. Mark A. Strong, Vice Chair
Rep. Melissa G. Ballard
Rep. Matthew H. Gwynn
Rep. Katy Hall
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Trevor Lee
Rep. Lisa Shepherd

Rep. Andrew Stoddard
Rep. Stephen L. Whyte

Members Absent:

Rep. Val L. Peterson

Staff Present:

Lacey Johnson, Policy Analyst
An Bradshaw, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Whyte moved to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 7

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. R. Wilcox

1. H.B. 495 Capital Felony Case Amendments(Pierucci, C.)

[HB495 Handout](#)

Rep. Candice Pierucci presented the bill with the assistance of William Hains, Assistant Solicitor General, Criminal Appeals Division, Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

Chair Wilcox assumed the chair.

Mark Moffat, Utah Defense Lawyers Association, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Richard Mauro, Executive Director, Salt Lake Legal Defender Association (SLLDA), spoke in opposition to the bill.

Scott Burns, Piute County Attorney and Executive Director, Utah Sheriffs Association, spoke in support of the bill.

Erin Bigler, Assistant Director of Forensic Social Work, SLLDA, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Carl Hollan, Executive Director, Statewide Association of Prosecutors and Public Attorneys (SWAP), spoke in support of the bill.

Andrew Riggle, Policy Advocate, Disability Law Center, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Eric Zuckerman, Assistant Federal Public Defender, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Hall moved to replace HB0495 with HB0495S01. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to pass HB0495S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 2 - 1.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. T. Lee
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 2

Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. A. Stoddard

Absent - 1

Rep. V. Peterson

2. H.B. 539 Criminal Justice Modifications(*MacPherson, M.*)

Rep. MacPherson presented the bill with the assistance of William Hains and Ryan Robinson, Policy Director, SWAP.

Marlesse Jones, Director, Domestic Violence Coalition, spoke in support of the bill.

Brett Robinson, Senior Policy Advisor, Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office, spoke in support of the bill.

Erin Jemison, Director of Public Policy, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, spoke in support of the bill.

Steve Burton, Director, Utah Defense Attorney Association, spoke to the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Stoddard moved to replace HB0539 with HB0539S02. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson

MOTION: Rep. Stoddard moved to pass HB0539S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 9

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. S. Whyte
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson

Vice Chair Strong resumed the chair.

3. 1st Sub. H.B. 402 EMS Controlled Substance Licensing Amendments(Wilcox, R.)

Rep. Wilcox presented the bill with the assistance of Rob Ayers, Division Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Unified Fire Authority.

Clint Smith, Draper City Fire Chief and representing the Utah State Fire Chiefs Association, spoke in support of the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Ballard moved to pass HB0402S01 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. S. Whyte

Chair Wilcox assumed the chair.

MOTION: Rep. Shepherd moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 8

Rep. M. Ballard
Rep. M. Gwynn
Rep. K. Hall
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. L. Shepherd
Rep. A. Stoddard
Rep. M. Strong
Rep. R. Wilcox

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

Rep. T. Lee
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. S. Whyte

Chair Wilcox adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

NOTE: H.J.R. 016, H.B. 0295, H.B. 0327 were not discussed in the meeting.